

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A production method of a TiAl based alloy comprising:

a step for holding a TiAl based alloy material having a fine lamellar microstructure and containing Al at least in an amount of from 43 to 48 atomic % in an equilibrium temperature range of an α phase; and

a step for subjecting the TiAl based alloy material held at that temperature to high-speed plastic working, while cooling the material to a predetermined working terminal temperature.

Claim 9 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 8, wherein said holding temperature is from 1230°C to 1400°C.

Claim 10 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 8, wherein said working terminal temperature is 1200°C.

Claim 11 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 8, wherein said TiAl based alloy material is held at said holding temperature with the material being covered with a thermal insulation material, and then said TiAl based alloy is subjected to high-speed plastic working, together with said thermal insulation material.

Claim 12 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 8, wherein a forging method is used as said high-speed plastic working.

Claim 13 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 8, wherein said high-speed plastic working is performed at a cooling speed of from 50 to 700°C/min.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A production method of a TiAl based alloy comprising:

a step for holding a TiAl based alloy material having a fine lamellar microstructure and containing Al at least in an amount of from 38 to 44 atomic % in an equilibrium temperature range of a ($\alpha + \beta$) phase; and

a step for subjecting the TiAl based alloy material held at said temperature to high-speed plastic working, while cooling said material to a predetermined working terminal temperature.

Claim 15 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 14, wherein said holding temperature is from 1150°C to 1300°C.

Claim 16 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 14, wherein said working terminal temperature is 1000°C.

Claim 17 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 14, wherein a forging method is used as said high-speed plastic working.

Claim 18 (Original): A production method of a TiAl based alloy according to claim 14, wherein said high-speed plastic working is performed at a cooling speed of from 50 to 700°C/min.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 8 and 14 are currently amended.

The amendment to the claims are supported throughout the present specification, e.g., at page 4, line 15 through page 5, line 2, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the amendments, and the amendments do not present new issues. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is requested.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 8-18 will be pending in the present application.